

VZCZCXRO6459
PP RUEHDE RUEHDIR
DE RUEHAD #1145/01 1900932
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 090932Z JUL 07
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9315
INFO RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 0797
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 0471
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 0558
RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD 0357
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM 0223
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ABU DHABI 001145

SIPDIS

SIPDIS
NOFORN

DEPT FOR NEA/FO, NEA/ARP, NEA/IPA, NEA/I, NEA/IR
NSC FOR NRAMCHAND, EABRAMS
JERUSALEM PLEASE PASS TO USSC GENERAL DAYTON

E.O. 12958: 07/08/2017

TAGS: [PREL](#) [KPAL](#) [KNUC](#) [IQ](#) [IR](#) [AE](#)

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER ABDULLAH ON ABBAS VISIT; GCC MINISTERIALS

REF: A) ABU DHABI 1119
B) RIYADH 1454

Classified By: Ambassador Michele J. Sison
for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) Ambassador spoke via telephone with Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed (AbZ) Sunday afternoon, July 8, regarding the visit of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who had arrived the day before. AbZ reported that Abu Mazen was still in Abu Dhabi, and would be meeting with UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed. Thus far, the conversations had focused on political support rather than additional financial assistance.

¶2. (C) The UAE leadership intends to press others in the region to support Abu Mazen and Salam Fayyad, according to AbZ. Abu Mazen had not made any specific requests. The UAE leadership feels it important to encourage others in the region to support Abu Mazen, and will target Bahrain and the Mahgreb (probably Morocco) as the most likely sources of support. The Omanis have shown good will but have not done much over the summer, said AbZ, who remarked that "it is no use asking the Qataris to help." Convincing the Saudis to assist the Palestinian Authority and the new Palestinian government is "a delicate matter," he added, noting that it is important to support the Fayyad government and the Palestinian people. AbZ reiterated his disappointment that Saudi King Abdullah at the last minute cancellation of a meeting with Abu Mazen in Amman in late June, emphasizing that this gesture made Abu Mazen "look bad."

¶3. (C) AbZ also reported that the Palestinians (NFI) had informed the UAE leadership that they could only identify \$118 million of the \$400 million in Qatari assistance to the former PM Haniya -- which meant that the remaining \$282 million had most probably gone to "straight to Hamas," he added caustically. The UAE had little hope that it could talk sense to the Qataris, he said, but hoped that entreaties to Egypt on the border situation would prove fruitful. In any event, AbZ said, the UAE would seek to strengthen Abu Mazen's hand. (Note: the UAE provided \$80 million to Abu Mazen in security assistance in May 2007 on top of \$30 million provided in December 2006. End Note.)

¶4. (U) Attending on the UAE side were President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed, Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed al Nahyan, AbZ, Interior Minister Sheikh Saif bin Zayed, and National Security Advisor/State Security Director Sheikh Hazza bin Zayed. Accompanying Abu Mazen were PLO Executive Committee Secretary General Nasser Abed Rabbo and Palestinian Ambassador Khair Al Aridi.

¶5. (C) Ambassador then asked AbZ for a readout of the July 3-4 GCC

meetings of foreign, and defense, and national security ministers in Riyadh. "It was the worst meeting I've ever been to in terms of progress," complained AbZ. Although the topics were important (Iraq and the influence of Iran in the region) the poor chairmanship of Saudi Deputy Defense Minister Prince Abd al-Rahman bin Abd al-Aziz had led to a very unproductive meeting on July 3, said AbZ. For each one to two minute intervention, he complained, the chair had insisted on holding forth with a minimum ten-minute monologue. There was no substantive progress on the development of new strategies on either Iraq security or Iranian nuclear proliferation, he said. In spite of the GCC communiqu   issued (Ref B), no concrete action plan had been decided upon. There had been agreement the following day at the meeting chaired by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal, however, that the GCC-state intelligence chiefs would gather together several times over the next several months "to better understand" the situation. This was a positive move, noted AbZ (who then admitted that it had been his "idea"). AbZ added that he looked forward to the next GCC+2 meeting.

¶6. (U) The official UAE news agency, WAM, issued the following press release on Abu Mazen's visit on July 8:

Begin text. President H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan received in the afternoon of today at the Al Bateen Palace Palestinian President, Mahmoud Abbas.

Deputy Prime Minister, Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, was present at the meeting during which the two leaders reviewed the latest developments on the Palestinian scene.

Sheikh Khalifa reiterated the UAE's firm stance in support of the Palestinian people and its just cause. He also reiterated the UAE's support for the Palestinian National Authority. He called on the

ABU DHABI 00001145 002 OF 002

Palestinian people to rally together, unite and patch up their differences to enable them to face the dangerous challenges facing them and their cause.

The UAE President urged the international community to work seriously to bring an end to the sufferings of the Palestinian people and to activate the peace process on the basis of the Arab Peace Initiative that would lead to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The Palestinian President expressed profound gratitude to the UAE for its continuous support for the Palestinian people in various areas to enable them to achieve their national objectives. End text.

SISON